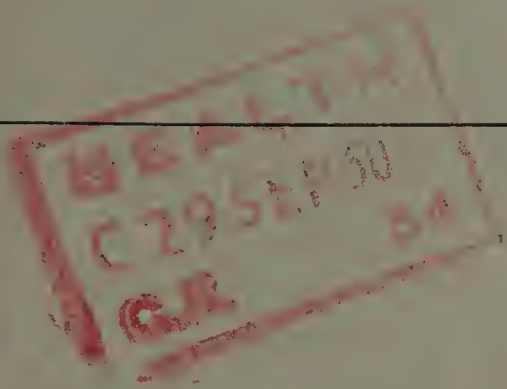


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Rural District of Louth

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

The Year 1959

Louth Rural District Council

1959—60

Chairman of the Council :

Councillor S. A. MOSSOP

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

Councillor F. COXON

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS COMMITTEE

Chairman :

Councillor J. H. V. WHITE

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor D. R. WEBB

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Councillor Mrs. A. Stone

Councillor N. B. Stovin

Councillor Mrs. C. V. Stubbs

Councillor J. W. Stubbs

Councillor G. E. Towler

Councillor C. C. Turner

Councillor Mrs. C. Vinter

Councillor G. Wattam

Councillor R. E. West

G. A. PITT, D.P.A., F.R.V.A.

Clerk of the Council

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE LOUTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1959, in which is incorporated an account of the year's events in the environmental field, supplied by the chief public health inspector and surveyor.

One is able to report a healthy relationship between live births and deaths at the respective rates of 312 and 215. With the favourable balance also existing in recent years, the registrar general's estimation of an increase in the local population caused no surprise.

Both birth and death rates for the year were superior to the corresponding national figures, as was also the infant mortality rate, which left the still births as providing the only unfavourable comparison. The Tables in the report provide information about the deaths of the year and allow comparison being made with the corresponding figures of recent years. It will be seen that a larger number of deaths than usual occurred, for which increases in cancer deaths and fatalities from accidents were mainly responsible.

The very satisfactory improvement in the general immunisation—vaccination returns strikes a welcome chord compared with the response of the past couple of years. The improvement, no doubt, followed the easing of claims for poliomyelitis vaccination and thus allowed a clearer field for attention to other forms of prevention which in the past couple of years, had suffered a temporary eclipse.

If we examine the year's table of infectious disease notifications for diseases controllable by vaccination, we find whooping cough the only intruder, though the majority of the cases were confined to a few households. It is satisfactory to note the absence of notifications of poliomyelitis, as was also the case the previous year, and it would seem that the results of vaccination are already being felt. Unfortunately, the disease poliomyelitis is not age selective in its strike, so that the teenager and those older are as much at risk as the child population, a fact which calls for a more enthusiastic response for vaccination from the adult group than has yet been forthcoming.

In this rather muted swansong, one cannot refrain from casting a backward glance at the revolutionary changes affecting the environmental health services of the district which have taken place over the past decade or so. The spread of the public water mains throughout the villages of the area; the improvements in sanitation, particularly the increase of sewerage provisions—the expansion of which, one hopes, will continue at the necessary urgent pace—and the establishment of a generalised system of refuse collection, have, not before time, brought these basic essentials for healthy living within reach of the rural dweller. Equally, a matter for congratulation has been the attention given, and still being given, to housing with the object of eliminating, parish by parish, the structures bearing the courtesy title of houses and replacing them by homes fit for healthy and contented living. Allied to this, the success of measures for improving and modernising other types of dwellings, particularly those of the farm cottager, has contributed a useful quota to housing welfare.

On a different plane, the advances made in the field of food hygiene and food safety have been noteworthy. One has only to think of the early efforts to produce some sort of order out of the chaos which existed in such essential matters as milk supplies and ice cream production to appreciate fully the enormity of the task which confronted the public health inspectors when the various legislative measures relating to clean and pure food required to be put into effect. Probably the transformation of the village food shop supplies the only outward and visible sign of the successful accomplishments, because the merits of the work are judged on the results of infectious disease prevention rather than on what the eye can behold.

It is true that governmental lead and helpful legislation contributed a large share to the achievements mentioned, but had the Council adopted a tight rein policy or displayed a half hearted interest, the results would have been very different. This thought prompts my gratitude for the interest and encouragement shown by the Council in the branches of the work with which I was concerned, and which allows me to take pride in whatever small part I was privileged to contribute to the general effort. It is, of course, not yet the time to bask in the serenity of satisfactory performances, for there is still much to be done, in the same happy spirit, to make the countryside the healthy and prosperous place we all wish it to be. Certainly, the foundations have been well and truly laid.

The occasion makes me conscious of my indebtedness to Mr. Shone and his staff for the loyal support and valuable help on which I could always rely. My thanks are offered to them, as well as to Mr. Pitt and the others in his department, for a happy official association which it will be a pleasure to recall.

This report would be incomplete if I did not avail of the opportunity to say a sincere thank you to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Members of the Public Health Committee, whose interest and encouragement have always been such a guiding force in the progress made in health and welfare matters. It has, indeed, been a pleasure working for, and with, the Committee.

W. J. KERRIGAN.
Medical Officer of Health.

LOUTH RURAL DISTRICT
REPORT ON THE HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITIONS
FOR THE YEAR 1959

Public Health Officers :

Medical Officer of Health :

W. J. KERRIGAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor :

S. SHONE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector and Asst. Surveyor :

P. CHILD. A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

H. W. GILLIAN, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

E. E. CAINES, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

SECTION A

Social Conditions and General Statistics

Area of Rural District, in Acres	....	....	....	153.129
Registrar General's estimate of Resident population	....	....	....	18,620
Density of population per acre	....	....	....	0.12
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1959	....	....	....	5,627
Rateable Value of inhabited houses	....	....	....	£78,414
Product of Penny Rate	....	....	....	£595

VITAL STATISTICS

(Note—Figures in brackets show corresponding rates for
England and Wales)

BIRTHS

(a) Live	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	300	154	146
Illegitimate	12	6	6
	<hr/> 312	<hr/> 160	<hr/> 152
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population			16.76
Standardised Birth rate for comparability purposes (Comparability factor 1.14)			19.1 (16.5)
(b) Still Births			
Legitimate	10	4	6
Illegitimate	1	1	—
	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 6
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population			0.6
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births			34.0 (20.7)
Total Births :— 323			

DEATHS	Total	Male	Female
	215	114	101
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population			11.5
Standardised Death Rate (Comparability factor 0.93)			10.7 (11.6)

Infant Deaths	Male	Female
(a) Under 12 months		
Legitimate	3	2
Illegitimate	—	—
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births		16.0 (22.0)
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Legitimate Births		16.7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Births		Nil
(b) Under 4 Weeks	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	2
Illegitimate	—	—
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births		12.8
(c) Under 1 Week	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	2
Illegitimate	—	—
Relation of Illegitimate Live Births to Total Live Births :—		3.8%
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)		Nil

Infant Deaths—Causes and Ages at Death

Acute Tracheo Bronchitis	Male	Female
Asphyxia	4 months	—
Prematurity	—	10 minutes
Prematurity	—	40 minutes
Prematurity	2 days	—
Prematurity	2 days	—

Table 1. Ages at Death for 1959

Ages in												
Years	0/1	1/5	5/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/55	55/65	65/75	75/80	80+	Total
Deaths	5	2	3	5	2	7	7	23	51	33	77	=215

Table 2. Table showing ages at death during the past 5 years and the averages for that period compared with those for 1959

Year	0/1	1/5	5/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/55	55/65	65/75	75/80	80+	
1958	8	—	—	2	1	5	10	23	44	37	64	
1957	7	1	1	4	—	7	9	19	52	46	55	
1956	7	—	4	1	1	2	5	22	42	43	76	
1955	7	1	1	3	2	6	12	14	49	30	60	
1954	5	—	—	5	4	4	14	28	49	31	75	
Average numbers	6.8	0.4	1.2	3.0	1.6	4.8	10.0	21.2	47.2	37.4	66.0	
1959												
Figures	5	2	3	5	2	7	7	23	51	33	77	

Table 3. Malignant Tumours—Ages at Death

	Stomach		Lung Bronchus		Breast		Uterus		Other Sites		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 40 years											—	—
40—45 years						I			I		I	I
45—50 years								I			—	I
50—55 years				I							I	—
55—60 years				I		I				4	I	5
60—65 years					I				I	2	I	3
65—70 years				I		I			I	I	2	2
70—75 years		I				I		I	6	2	7	4
75—80 years									3	2	3	2
80+		I				I			3	2	4	3
	2	—	3	I	—	5	—	2	15	13	20	21

Table 4. Causes of Death

	1959			(a)	(b)
	M.	F.	Ttl.		
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	1.4
2. Tuberculosis Non-respiratory	—	—	—	—	0.2
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	—	0.8
4. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—	—	0.2
5. Measles	—	—	—	—	0.2
6. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—	0.2
7. Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	2	—	2	5	5.2
8. Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	3	1	4	5	4.0
9. Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	—	5	5	1	2.2
10. Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	—	2	2	2	1.4
11. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	15	13	28	15	16.8
12. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1	1	—	0.4
13. Diabetes	—	1	1	2	1.8
14. Vascular Lesions of nervous system	13	16	29	29	30.8
15. Coronary disease, angina	20	12	32	32	29.0
16. Hypertension with Heart disease	4	3	7	7	4.2
17. Other Heart disease	18	13	31	37	31.4
18. Other circulatory disease	7	8	15	9	12.8
19. Influenza	—	2	2	2	2.0
20. Pneumonia	3	2	5	6	8.0
21. Bronchitis	3	3	6	11	7.8
22. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3	2	1.8
23. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	—	0.6
24. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1	—	0.6
25. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	1	1	0.8
26. Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	—	3	2	2.6
27. Congenital malformations	—	—	—	—	1.0
28. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	12	22	20	22.8
29. Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	1	5	2	2.0
30. All other accidents	6	2	8	4	5.8
31. Suicide	—	1	1	—	0.8
32. Homicide	—	1	1	—	—
	114	101	215	194	200

N.B.

(a) Above, refers to the corresponding numbers for 1958.

(b) Above, refers to the average numbers over the past 5 years.

For the great majority, who will pass over the foregoing tables with a hurried glance, the following are the principal points to be gleaned from their story.

The number of deaths for the year exceeded the average for the preceding five years period by 15, with the chief increases borne by accidents and malignant growths. The fatalities resulting from accidents were double those of the previous year, and it was sad to note that 9 of the total of 10 deaths which occurred between the ages of one and twenty five years were attributable to motor vehicle accidents, drowning and other forms of violence, with motor cycle accidents heading the list with four. Deaths from malignant growths totalled 41, which was equivalent to an increase of 11 in the average annual number over the preceding 5 years. The increase affected the total coming under the comprehensive title of "Other Sites", which included mainly cancer of genito-urinary and alimentary organs other than those specified in the Table concerned. Of the total deaths resulting from malignant growths, 66% occurred in persons after the age of 65 years. The other principal killing diseases were, as usual, those resulting from heart and circulatory causes, with coronary disease claiming a similar number of victims as the preceding year.

There were fewer deaths from pneumonia and bronchitis, for which the favourable weather during the year may, at least, have been partly responsible, and neither infectious diseases nor tuberculosis claimed any victims.

SECTION B

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis notified during 1959,
including Service cases.

Disease	Cases Notified	Case rates per 1,000 of estimated population
Measles	122	6.6
Whooping Cough	29	1.6
Scarlet Fever	6	0.32
Pneumonia	11	0.6
Erysipelas	4	0.21
Dysentery	10	0.54
Meningococcal Infection	1	0.05
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	*6.19
	185	*per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)

Measles, the hardy perennial, supplied trickle notifications from various parishes in the early part of the year, but the main force of the outbreak was limited to the north eastern areas during the summer. Even though the notifications of whooping cough were fewer than the previous year, one

would expect the incidence to be less if fuller advantage were taken of the vaccination measures offered. It may be significant that 23 of the 29 cases notified involved only eight families, so that the extent of the infection was really less than the number suggests.

The dysentery cases referred to a local pocket of shigella sonnei, infection which was investigated and suitable action taken to limit spread, and 3 isolated cases of salmonella were similarly dealt with.

For the second year in succession, it was gratifying to find the list free from a notification of poliomyelitis, but it would be scarcely justifiable at this stage to attribute the freedom to the result of vaccination, however much it could be accepted as a contributory cause.

PROPHYLAXIS MEASURES AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, SMALLPOX AND TETANUS

(a) Diphtheria Immunisation

Under 5 years	5-14 years	Booster Doses
11	31	210

(b) Form of Prophylaxis

Age in years	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total
Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	10	8	13	—	—	—	—	31
Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough	108	73	13	6	8	14	—	222
Diphtheria and Tetanus	2	5	2	—	—	—	—	9
Whooping Cough	5	1	—	—	1	—	—	7
Whooping Cough and Tetanus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	125	87	28	6	9	14	—	269

(c) Smallpox

Ages in years	0/1	1/4	5/14	15+	Total
Vaccinations	123	41	12	14	190
Re-vaccinations	—	3	6	16	25

(d) Tetanus

Ages in years	0/1	1/4	5/14	15+	Total
Vaccination	1	6	8	3	18
Booster	—	—	—	2	2

I am indebted to Dr. C. D. Cormac, County Medical Officer of Health, for his kindness in having the foregoing figures extracted and supplied to us relating to the year's immunisation-vaccination returns for the district. The following provides a summary of these, which allows a comparison being made with the corresponding bracketed figures of the preceding year.

Diphtheria.

(a) Under 5 years	259	(158)
(b) 5-14 years	45	(45)
(c) Booster injections	210	(250)

Whooping Cough	269	(168)
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Tetanus	249	(71)
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Small Pox

(a) Under 5 years	164	(137)
(b) Age 5-14 years	12	(7)
(c) Age 15 + years	14	(14)
Re-vaccinations	25	(15)

Dr. Cormac regrets—and one fully understands the circumstances—not being able to supply returns of poliomyelitis vaccinations for individual County Districts because of the enormity of the task involved in their segregation.

The above returns of vaccination prevention speak for themselves in both the relative and absolute senses. The improvement on the figures of the previous year is obvious, and if assessed by the 1958 live births surviving to vaccination age, the initial diphtheria immunisation would represent 80% of that total; and in the case of whooping cough 84%, which is most satisfactory.

The response to tetanus protection jumped amazingly; and considering this is only the second year since the general facilities were provided in the County for its use, the country resident has been quick to cover this occupational hazard. Though the number vaccinated against small pox has shown a gradual step up in recent years, one would like to see more evidence of this form of vaccination on the present day school child.

It will be noticed from the County returns that vaccine combinations were mostly chosen, which is sensible procedure to obtain the maximal forms of cover with the minimal number of injections.

B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis was offered to school children over the age of 13 years, and, in certain cases, to children aged 13 years. This vaccination was done only by school medical officers, and children resident in the Rural District and attending secondary schools outside or within the district were treated where consent was given and preliminary skin tests established the need. The response here was reasonably good, but in view of the proven worth of protection conferred by vaccination against tuberculosis in all its forms one would have expected fuller advantage being taken of this form of prophylaxis.

TUBERCULOSIS : NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1959

New CasesDeaths

Age period (years)	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0						
1						
5						
15	2	1				
25						
35	1					
45						
55	2		1			
65+						
TOTALS	5	1	—	1	—	—	—

Six cases of lung involvement and one of bone were notified compared with five pulmonary and one non-pulmonary the previous year. Three of the cases this year were service men, who would not normally belong to this district. No deaths resulted from the disease, as was also the case in the previous year, which gives a total of only five deaths from the disease in the past 5 years.

SECTION C

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

I am pleased to have the opportunity of expressing my appreciation for the assistance given by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Lincoln, in charge of Dr. Croll. Samples totalling 720 were dealt with during the year, concerned with routine checks on water and food samples and special investigations. One realises the difficulties that my predecessors in office must have had in the absence of such facilities to guide their efforts, and I was glad on taking office that the Council supported my recommendation to avail of the Public Health Laboratory service, when in its infant stage a small charge was made for services rendered; though it so happened that a bill was never received.

Clinics and Welfare Centres

These are provided and operated by the County Council where the need exists and staff permits. There are 7 Welfare Centres within the district, apart from others contiguous, which include the larger urban centres offering a wide scope of clinic facilities. Not the least part of the useful functioning of the centres, is the opportunity given for encouraging and carrying out the various forms of vaccination.

In addition, the County Council, being the Local Health Authority, sponsors the appropriate services concerned with these obligations in the district.

SECTION D

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

As in the previous year, I requested Mr. Shone, the Council's Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, to furnish a report dealing with the Council's environmental health services, and I am grateful to him for the detailed record of events which follow, and which not only show the extent of the duties coming within his department but the successful accomplishments in this field during the year.

In the circumstances, the following brief comments from me will suffice here.

Sample Results

Full use was made of the free laboratory facilities to check and guide our efforts in controlling the safety standards of water supplies in the district and certain foodstuffs which require special supervision. The work of sample taking certainly takes up a lot of time, but our perseverance through the years in this field has had very rewarding results when we compare—and it is the only means of comparing—the past and present records.

Out of 401 water samples taken over the district from Council mains supplies and 150 from Estate supplies, a negligible number only was found sub-standard. The follow up checks of the 8 found unsatisfactory from the public supply revealed no confirmatory evidence of trouble, which was presumed to be due to accidental extraneous contamination of the original samples. The Estate private supplies continued to give satisfaction with four samples only being substandard during the year. Individual private supplies were tested, either at request or as part of special investigation.

Milk and Ice Cream samples all came within the satisfactory category, which provided a sharp contrast with the story of the past. As usual, in the case of ice cream samples, both producers and retailers were informed of the individual results, and milk producers were similarly informed.

Special investigation was made into other types of eatables to ascertain their possible association with food poisoning risks. Samples submitted included watercress, suspected cockles, sausage meat and duck eggs.

Slum Clearance

As the result of surveys by the public health inspectors into the condition of houses subject to letting in seven parishes, 53 individual houses were officially represented as unfit. Out of this number, 15 were found unoccupied and were mainly near-derelict structures. Outside the planned programme, 12 other individual dwellings discovered in the district were represented for demolition because of their structural condition. These cases were mainly concerned with obtaining official control to prevent re-occupation of the vacant and those which became vacant.

The sensible and happy collaboration existing between the public health and housing committees results in house building programmes to match, as far as practicable, the slum clearance requirements. This was manifest by the housing committee's intention to confine the current building programme to the erection of dwellings mainly of single bedroom type suitable for old people. New ground promises also to be broken by the intention to erect a block of housing units, with a warden service. This will, indeed, mark a progressive step which should go far to improve the welfare and happiness of aged and semi infirm folk; and one hopes the success of the venture will encourage similar provisions in one or two of the other larger villages in the district.

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR TO THE COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members
of the Louth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting this report with details of the principal duties engaging the attention of the Council's Staff and workmen under my control during 1959 for inclusion in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, at his request.

The year has brought further increases in the work calling for the services of a draughtsman and at times considerable delays are occurring. The reliance for this work upon Officers already fully committed is unsatisfactory and the position calls for review.

With a relatively small staff of workmen the Council's essential services have been maintained but keeping pace with the work becomes increasingly difficult. The lack of adequate labour together with increases in holiday entitlement and a reduction in the hours of the working week combine to put us progressively further in arrear.

My thanks are due, as always, to the Medical Officer of Health for his continued support and to other Officers and Staff of the Council for their willing co-operation at all times.

May I again stress my sincere appreciation to you Mr. Chairman, and to the Chairman and Members of all Committees. The active interest of Members in the technical affairs of the Council is always a source of gratification and pleasure.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. SHONE.

Chief Public Health Inspector
Surveyor to the Council.

I. HOUSING

The latter portion of the year saw the renewing of the Housing Committee's efforts in the construction of new dwellings. Work was begun on the following sites :— Grimoldby (6), Legbourne (5), Aby (6), and Withern (6); of these, twenty are single bedroomed bungalows for elderly persons and three two-bedroomed bungalows. Four single bedroomed bungalows at Grimoldby were handed over for letting as the year closed. In addition preparatory work was in hand by the Council's Architect for further dwellings at Fulstow, Grimoldby and Theddlethorpe St. Helen, together with a block of elderly persons dwellings with Warden's flat at North Thoresby.

Total number of new houses erected during the year	....	55
(1) By the Council	....	6
(2) By other Local Authorities	....	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	....	49
(4) Number allocated for replacing houses subject to Demolition Orders	....	6

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACTS 1954-57

Number of certificates of disrepair issued	Nil
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INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	501
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	565

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT, SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	90
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(1) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	....	Nil
(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	....	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(2) Proceedings under the Housing Acts	Nil
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SLUM CLEARANCE—PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	36
(b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	....	....	....	....	....	9
(c) Number of dwelling houses, or parts, subject to Closing Orders						3
(d) Number of dwelling houses, or parts, rendered fit by undertakings	....	....	....	....	....	1
(e) Number of dwelling houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders	....	....	....	....	....	20
(f) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance thereof	....	....	....	....	....	20
(g) Number of dwelling houses on which Demolition Orders are operative which are still occupied	....	....	....	....	....	22

HOUSING ACTS—OVERCROWDING

(a) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	....	....	....	....	....	2
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	....	....				13
(b) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year						Not known

2. HOUSING ACT 1949 AND 1959

DISCRETIONARY AND STANDARD GRANTS

The lifting of financial controls saw an increase in the enquiries for grant aid for the improving of existing housing accommodation. The change in the legislation which introduced the "STANDARD GRANT" had little impact, 18 applications only being received. The increase to 97 applications for improvement grant (now termed "DISCRETIONARY GRANTS") was a welcome sign. Though this work brings much detailed and tedious technical effort the final result in one upon which the Committee may look with pride as a positive contribution to the well-being of the country dweller.

Our total number of approved improvement grants is now 543.

3. CARAVANS

One further small site was licensed at Tetney Lock for ten caravans making a total of four licensed sites accommodating 179 cvans together with 44 individual licences.

Careful supervision has been maintained during 255 visits when 15 matters contravening the various Acts and Regulations were remedied.

4. FOOD PREMISES

Premises registered for the manufacture or preparation of preserved foods

.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
Premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Premises registered for the sale only of pre-packed ice cream	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	78
Bakehouses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Fried Fish Shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Butcher's Shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Cafes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
General Village Stores	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	96

The individual standard of fitting, lay-out and cleanliness has improved considerably and there is a recognition in the trade of the need for modern presentation and handling of all foodstuffs.

Visits totalling 418 have been made to these premises.

5. ICE CREAM

Samples to the total of 77 were taken from the retailers of ice cream and submitted for analysis; none was reported as unsatisfactory.

6. MILK REGULATIONS

Number of Distributors on the register :—

Sterilised	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36
Pasteurised	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
Tuberculin Tested	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16

7. KNACKERS YARDS

Four premises are licensed year to year and these necessary adjuncts to a farming community are well maintained and constantly being brought up to date. One premise only is licensed for the slaughter of animals—the remainder handle "dead stock" only.

8. NUISANCES

ABATED INFORMALLY

Refuse	....	....	....	....	....	19
Foul Ditches	....	....	....	....	....	68
Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	39
Fowls, pigs and other animals			....	....	....	8
Dangerous premises	....	....	....	....	....	8
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	23
						<u>165</u>

All were remedied as a result of informal approach which method continues to bring excellent results.

9. MEAT INSPECTION

DETAILS OF CARCASSES INSPECTED 1959

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	127	3	1	333	26
Number inspected	127	3	1	333	26
(a) All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	—	—	2	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	6.3%	—	—	.6%	—
(b) Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	2	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.3%	66.6%	—	—	—
(c) Cysticerosis					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

During the year the slaughterhouses and slaughtering facilities in the rural district were reviewed as requested by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. Following meetings with the Trade and Public Health Committee expressed themselves satisfied that the needs of the District were adequately met by the three existing slaughterhouses and this view was endorsed by the Council. All three premises are capable of being made to comply with the Regulations by attention to minor matters only.

10. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

(1) INSPECTIONS

PREMISES	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	3	—	—
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	60	65	—	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-Workers' premises)	3	—	—	—
TOTAL	65	68	—	—

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspectors	Referred by H.M. Inspectors	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences(S7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act					
(not including outworkers)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	7	7	—	—	—

WATER SUPPLIES

The contract for the construction of the final portion of the Council's regional scheme (i.e. supplying the parishes of Saltfleetby St. Peter, Saltfleetby All Saints, Saltfleetby St. Clements, Theddlethorpe All Saints and Theddlethorpe St. Helen) was begun. With the completion of this contract the Water Committee will be in a position to afford such bulk supplies as are required to the Urban District of Mablethorpe at two points of inter-connection. Also the mains will afford piped supplies in an area where the private sources shew signs of depletion.

The total annual gallonage available in 1959 was 451,198,000 of this 208,829,000 gallons was obtained by bulk purchase from other authorities and bulk sales amounted to 243,818,000 gallons. In the North the bulk supply to the North East Lincolnshire Water Board was 48,891,000 gallons and in the West to Horncastle Rural District Council 162,820,000 gallons.

In spite of the unprecedented dry weather we experienced no overall water shortage and formal restrictions were not necessary. The Binbrook source however had to be restricted at an earlier date than usual and bulk purchase from Louth Borough Council at the Raithby source increased. The extended use of this water gave rise to many complaints and, though the Committee is already well aware of its offensive nature, the urgent need for suitable treatment became more pressing.

Domestic connections now number 3,105 and metered 1,190. Some 3,692 dwellings now have a supply from the Council's mains—the continued increase in connections shews a consciousness of the value of this amenity to the country dweller.

Routine bacteriological sampling continued, 401 being taken from the Council's mains and 154 from private estate supplies. These samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln and in addition, 12 routine chemical samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination.

With the changing pattern of farming there has been an increase in the number of applications to sink sizeable boreholes for irrigation purposes. These are usually situate in farm land considerable distances from existing mains and the Committee have not felt it necessary to make any formal objections.

SEWERAGE

All house connections were completed to the new sewers in Tetney and North Thoresby and house-holders were quick to take advantage of the facilities available.

The year brought the completion of the Third Phase of sewerage at Holton-le-Clay, which included the construction of the second half of the disposal works. With the considerable increase in building in this village the margin allowed for additional property connections has now been absorbed. The continuing erection of dwelling houses plus the approved Planning applications will probably overload the disposal works in the near future.

A local enquiry was held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government into the sewerage of Marshchapel and North Cotes villages and permission given for the Council to proceed.

The initial work of preparing a scheme for the sewerage of Legbourne and Little Cawthorpe villages was put in hand and a Local Enquiry is awaited.

13. CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The increasing number of new private houses and the completed improvement grant works have increased the demand for this service. The existing limitation of mains sewers to eight villages only is having little effect in reducing the overall number of cesspools and septic tanks.

A total of 817 cesspools were cleansed by the Council's tanker during the year and 137 were abolished.

14. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Number of houses with privy vaults	....	....	....	384
Number of houses with pail closets ....	....	....	....	1787
Number of houses with water closets	....	....	....	3479
Number of conversions to water carriage drainage system				238

15. PRIVY CONVERSIONS

The Council continued its policy of making grants of £10 (when the total cost is £20 or more) for the conversion of privy vaults and pail closets to water closets and a total of 146 grants were made, 120 to Council sewers and 26 to septic tanks. These were additional to those properties grant-aided for similar operations in the completed Discretionary and Standard Grants.

16. PETROLEUM STORAGE

Licences for the storage of petroleum spirit were issued in respect of 128 premises of which 36 were garages and filling stations. A total of 74 visits were made to ensure the Regulations were being observed. The co-operation of the interests concerned indicates there is growing appreciation of the hazards which the storage of petrol presents.

Total quantity licensed for storage is 96,980 gallons, the licences represent an income to the Council in 1959 of £83-5-od.

17. REFUSE COLLECTION

The regular fortnightly collection of household refuse was extended to cover 78 of the Council's 79 Parishes. Included also is the fortnightly collection from R.A.F. Manby and a weekly collection from R.A.F. North Cotes by Contract.

A regular visit to some 4,489 premises is now made for this purpose using two Dual-Tip Karrier Diesel vehicles and six men (including drivers).

18. RODENT CONTROL

During 1959, 372 private dwellings and 92 other premises were treated by the Council's Rodent Operative with an estimated kill of 18,291 rats. Council premises viz :— sewage disposal works and refuse tips continue to receive regular treatment and there is no known source of reservoir infestation in the District.

19. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS

Late in the year Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular No. 58/59 pointed to the wisdom of reviewing the operation of the Delegation Agreements between County Councils and County District Councils. The Council's Plans Committee gave careful consideration to the need for this review in the light of their experience in working under delegated powers over a period of some years.

Certain aspects of planning control admit of amendment and the Committee is actively persuing the matter.

Owing to the lifting of financial controls the amount of work within this Committee's orbit increased considerably particularly by way of private dwelling house building and improvement.

The panel below details the planning applications received and dealt with; in addition to which 296 bye-law applications, 83 electricity line proposals and 12 caravan renewals were approved by the Committee Chairman and Surveyor as authorised by Committee.

TABLE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	No.
Council Houses	6
Private Houses	54
Additions and Alterations to Houses	30
Conversions to Houses	8
Ejector Stations and Pumping Stations	5
Farm Buildings	13
Factories (including alterations and additions)	3
Fish Pools	1
Licensed Premises (alterations and additions)	1
Shops (including alterations and additions)	4
Petrol Stations and Garages	1
Private Garages	15
Advertisements	5
Cafes and additions	5
Deep Litter Houses	5
Caravan Sites and Caravans	18
Public Conveniences	4
Workshops	6
'Bus Shelters	1
Accesses to Highways	9
Recreation Halls	1
Outline Applications	30
Refuse Tips	1
TOTAL	226

Out of this total there were 10 refusals with 1 Appeal to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. After informal hearing the Council's decision was upheld in this case.

J. H. EYRE, PRINTER, MARKET RASEN

